

REMARKS

The official action dated August 23, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 6 and 15 have been cancelled in their entirety without prejudice with no disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein while claims 7, 10, 11, 12 and 16 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as their invention. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-20 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, applicant wishes to acknowledge examiner's indication on page 3 of the office action that claims 1-5, 8-10, 17, and 18 are allowable over the prior art of record, while claims 6, 7, 11, 12-16, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections based on the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph set forth in the office action. With the foregoing amendments, it is believed that claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-20 are now in proper condition for allowance.

With reference now to page 2 of the office action, claims 6, 7, 11, 12-16, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

With the foregoing amendments, each of claims 6 and 15 have been cancelled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, further discussion with respect thereto is no longer believed to be warranted.

With respect to dependent claim 7, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, reference to the fifth and sixth transistors has been deleted and consequently it is respectfully submitted that this claim is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, with the foregoing amendments to independent claim 10 along with those set forth in claim 11, claim 11 now properly relates the features of thereof with respect to independent claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 11 is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With reference to claim 12, this claim has been amended to recite a level shift circuit according to claim 10, wherein the third transistors have a third NMOS transistor and a third PMOS transistor connected in series. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is now in proper form and condition for allowance.

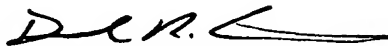
With respect to claim 16, reference to the fifth and sixth transistors has been deleted and consequently it is respectfully submitted that this claim is now in proper condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 19, it is noted that the examiner has requested clarification as to what the second amplitude, first amplitude and the third transistor are as recited in claim 19. In this regard, we note that in claim 19 it is clearly described that “an output signal has a first amplitude” (lines 3-4) and “an input signal has a second amplitude that is smaller than the first amplitude” (lines 14-15). Further, with respect to the third transistor recited in claim 19, a transistor P30 or a transistor N30 would be the third transistor of claim 19 as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is in proper form and condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the examiner, that claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-20 be allowed and that the application be passed the issue.

Should the examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker
Reg. No. 32,815

Nixon Peabody LLP
401 9th Street N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D. C. 20004
(202) 585-8000